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SRI S. LAZAR : On a point of order, Sir, I find that a number of adjournment motions are being brought before this House and I see very often that the Speaker *prima facie* rules them out of order. May I know, if it will not be, if I may be permitted to say so, more proper to have them ruled out even before the Speaker admits them and reads them in the House especially when the Speaker *prima facie* feels that there is no point at all in moving these adjournment motions? I am of opinion that the purpose is achieved by bringing them here and making mention of them though a discussion does not follow.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member is only aware of the adjournment motions that are brought before the House. He is not aware as to how many adjournment motions I have ruled out of order in my chamber when I am satisfied that there is no case. But wherever there is doubt and wherever I like the Minister to clarify the position, I bring them before the House. If in the meantime its object is achieved, I cannot help it.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : On a point of information, may I know from the Hon. Speaker whether he has admitted any adjournment motion after he assumed the Chair?

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member may come to my room and I shall look into the records and inform him.

SRI N. K. PALANISAMI : ஸ்பீக்கர்ஸ் கன்வென்ஷனில் இந்தமாதிரி அட்ஜெர்ன்மெண்ட் மோஷன்களை சபையில் கொண்டுவரலாம் என்று முடிவாகி யிருக்கிறது என்பதைத் தங்களுடைய ஞாபகத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவர விரும்புகிறேன்.

MR. SPEAKER : அந்தமாதிரி ஒன்றும் இல்லை. ரூமிலேயே டிஸ் அலௌ பண்ணலாம் என்றுதான் தீர்மானம் செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கிறது, ஏதோ இங்கே கொண்டுவரப்படுகிறது, அவ்வளவுதான்.

* SRI V. K KOTHANDARAMAN : கனம் அங்கத்தினர் விநாயகம் அவர்களுடைய கேள்வி ஸ்பீக்கருடைய உரிமையைப் பற்றியே கேள்வி கேட்பதாக இருக்கிறது என்று தெரிவிக்க விரும்புகிறேன்.

MR. SPEAKER : அப்படி ஒன்றும் இல்லை. அவருக்கு ஏதோ சந்தேகம் இருந்தாற்போல தோன்றியது. அதற்காக கேள்வி கேட்டார். நான் பதில் சொல்லிவிட்டேன்.

III.—STATEMENT ON THE FOOD SITUATION IN MADRAS STATE.

* THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a White Paper on the "Food Situation in the Madras State" has already been circulated to hon. Members. I have tried in that paper to discuss all aspects of food production, consumption and food movements from and to Madras State. I have indicated the general trend of policy decisions so far taken and the manner in which we have tried to carry out these decisions. I have also given the precise figures for production, movements and the price levels. Lastly, I have given some important All-India statistics about the food position which will put our State figures in the proper perspective. I would also like to mention the latest position regarding

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the number of fair price shops. There are 1,728 fair price shops functioning in this State and the present off-take is about 5,000 tons a week. Since the shops were started on 15th July 1959, we have distributed 28,657 tons (up to 3rd September 1959).

I shall now try to give a brief account of the trend of the discussions at the special meeting of the National Development Council held on the 5th and 6th September 1969, which was attended by th Chief Ministers and Food Ministers of all States. The object of the meeting was to generally review the food policy in the different States, particularly from an All-India point of view. Madras was represented by myself and the Finance Minister. The main question we were concerned with was the proposal made persistently over the past two years to break up the Southern Zone into Zones consisting of single States.

It was urged that the present zonal system in the south was causing a lot of difficulties and the only means of effectively controlling the prices in the Southern Zone will be by making each State a food zone by itself. At present in Madras State there is a lot of competitive buying by the merchants with the result that the prices always tend to reach the high levels prevailing in Kerala and the Government procurement operations are not too successful. It was suggested that if the zone is split up—

(1) the supply position in Madras would improve as there will be no excessive movement outside the State;

(2) our programme of procurment will go according to schedule;

(3) speculative purchases will be reduced considerably and we will be able to hold the prices down; and

(4) Kerala will be assured of a pre-determined quota at a fair price which would help that Government in holding down their price level.

It was also mentioned that Madras will be prepared in a normal year to procure and supply Kerala 1½ lakh tons. It was also pointed out that if Madras is not made a Zone by itself,, it will be virtually impossible for the State Government to continue procurement

Andhra also agreed with the views expressed by Madras. They were prepared to procure and hand over to the Central Government for movement to Kerala, four lakhs tons a year. On the other hand Mysore opposed the break-up of the zone on the ground that their deficit was of the order of 2½ lakhs tons and that a break-up of the zone will deny them supplies to the extent from Andhra. Kerala also opposed the break-up of the zone on the ground that their supply position would become difficult.

It was urged on behalf of the Central Government that a break-up of the zone will mean a commitment on the part of the Government of India to supply 7 lakhs tons to Kerala and 2½ lakhs tons to Mysore. Against this commitment of 9½ lakhs tons the Centre

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could only get 5½ lakhs tons from Madras and Andhra and they are not in a position to find the balance elsewhere. So, the Centre was not inclined to accept readily the suggestion to break-up the zone.

Our reply was that the demand of 9½ lakhs tons from Kerala and Mysore was not real but highly inflated. Kerala never got such a large quantity from outside and the average movements into Kerala could not in any year have exceeded 5 lakhs tons. In the same way Mysore was never supplied 2½ lakhs tons in any year, but they were in fact self-sufficient and even if they had a small deficit, it could not have exceeded ½ (half) lakh ton. So if the supplies to Mysore and Kerala are to be maintained normally, the total need will be only 5½ lakhs tons, which Madras and Andhra were prepared to procure and supply. If there is any slight marginal deficit, the Central Government could supply this from the imported stocks, as they are doing at present. So, it was strongly urged that the policy suggested by Madras and Andhra is quite workable and that the Centre would be running no risks in adopting it.

It was decided that the real needs of Mysore and Kerala should be worked out based on the actual movements that have taken place and that the representatives of the States may meet once again towards the end of this month for a final discussion, before the Govermnent of India decides the question of the break-up of the zone.

SRI V. K. RAMASWAMY MUDALIYAR : Sir, I request that copies of the speech of the Hon. Minister may be circulated to hon. Members. I also want to know from the Hon. Minister when this statement will be taken up for discussion.

* THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : If the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition wants copies of the speech, I shall have them circulated to the House. As regards discussion on this statement, I would say that the Business Advisory Committee, which is meeting this afternoon, will decide this question. To-morrow may be allotted for a discussion on this statement, because we have no other official days to discuss this statement. We have certain other official business also for to-morrow. I submit that even though to-morrow is a non-official day, there is the resolution on increasing the number of fair price shops. Therefore, it will be quite appropriate if to-morrow is taken up for a discussion on the food situation.

IV.—GOVERNMENT MOTION.

MOTION *re* TRANSACTION OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS ON NON-OFFICIAL DAY.

* THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, under Rule 23 (1) of the Madras Assembly Rules, I move

"That the House do resolve to transact Government business on Thursday, the 10th September 1959."